

REMARKS

An Office Action was mailed on June 16, 2003. Claims 1-55 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-8, 11-12 and 19-55 are canceled, with Applicant reserving the right to prosecute the same in a continuing application.

Applicant is *re-submitting* herewith formal drawings that were originally filed on April 12, 1999. A copy of the return-receipt postcard evidencing receipt of the formal drawings by the USPTO is attached hereto. This re-submission is being provided to overcome the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review dated May 11, 1999, which Review did not appear to consider Applicant's prior formal drawing submission.

Claims 9, 10 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because such claims include a positive limitation to "platform code" *per se*. Responsive thereto, Applicant has amended the claims to overcome such rejection by defining the code and/or platform code as running or being executed on a server as opposed to being positively recited *per se*. Such amendments similarly address the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§101 and 112, first paragraph.

Claims 14-16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Responsive thereto, Applicant has amended the claims to overcome such §112, second paragraphs. Such amendments are believed to be self-evident and address the clarity issues surrounding "combination module" in claim 14, "for the same function" in claim 15 and "where the function is a currency symbol" in claim 16 and 18. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

The Examiner rejected claims 9, 10 and 13-18 as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Tarr et al. (U.S. Patent 5,935,004) in view of Acres (U.S. Patent 6,319,125).

Tarr et al. '004 describes a system for delivering game programs to a video game device such as a Sony Play Station or Nintendo device. The system described by Tarr et al. '004 involves using a platform code in the user device to run games programs delivered over a cable network. There is no suggestion that the games are divided into modules and there is *no*

suggestion that any part of the games run on the head-end server. The head-end system of Tarr et al. '004 simply delivers game programs by broadcast at scheduled times.

Acres '125 describes a bonusing promotion system in which a program divided into modules is run on a bonusing machine. There is no suggestion in Acres '125 that the modules run through any platform code or that the interaction between the modules is via the platform code. That is to say, the modules of Acres '125 may directly communicate with each other as would be the case in well known programming practices. Further, the modules of Acres '125 are all running on a single platform and there is *no suggestion* that they are delivered to the platform over a network, let alone that the module might be delivered in various combinations depending on the game being played.

Finally, in neither of Tarr et al. '004 or Acres '125 is there any suggestion that any module of the game program is run on a head system or any other processor other than the target processor (the user device in Tarr et al. '004 and the bonusing machine in Acres '125).

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner that Tarr et al. '004 in combination with Acres '125 teaches or suggests the claimed invention. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that Tarr et al. '004 in combination with Acres '125 fails to teach or reasonably suggest a distributed gaming system comprising a server, a plurality of gaming consoles, a game platform interface comprising server platform code running on the server and console platform code running on each gaming console, a plurality of game programs stored on the server, each game program comprising a plurality of separate functional program modules which when executing are arranged to interact with each other only via functions provided by execution of the platform interface, wherein the server platform code located in the server functions to transfer at least one of the functional program modules of one game to a console and the console platform code, operating on the console, functions to execute the at least one of the functional program modules transferred to the console to provide a game function on the console for play by a player, as claimed.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that Tarr et al. '004 in combination with Acres '125 fails to teach or reasonably suggest a server for a distributed gaming system which includes said server and at least one gaming console, the server including a plurality of games programs stored on the server and selectable for play by a player operating one of the consoles, each game

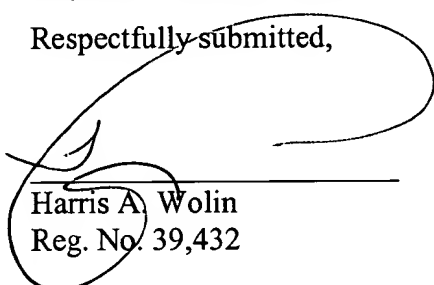
program being separated into a plurality of functional program modules, a server component of a game platform interface comprising server platform code running on the server, whereby the server is only permitted to interact with the functional modules via functions provided by the execution of the server platform code, the server platform code functioning to distribute one or more functional program modules of one game to a console on which the respective game has been selected to be played by a player, whereby execution of the functional modules on the console permits the game to be played on the console by the player, as claimed.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 9, 10 and 13-18, consisting of independent claims 9 and 13 and the claims dependent therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,



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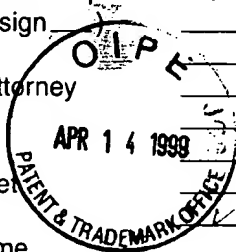
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DOCKET NO.: 2663/FBR (031035-87541)

Copy of Return Receipt Postcard Stamped by the USPTO and Evidencing Receipt of Four Sheets of Formal Drawings Submitted on April 12, 1999

PATENTS	
To: Assistant Commissioner for Patents Serial/Patent No. <u>09/238 535</u> Filing Date <u>January 27 1999</u> Inventor(s): <u>Robert Linley Muir</u> Title: <u>Multi-Platform Training Architecture</u>	Atty Docket No. <u>2663/FBR</u> Date Mailed <u>4-12-99</u> Attorney <u>SI</u>

The U.S. Patent & Trademark Office stamp herein acknowledges receipt of the following:

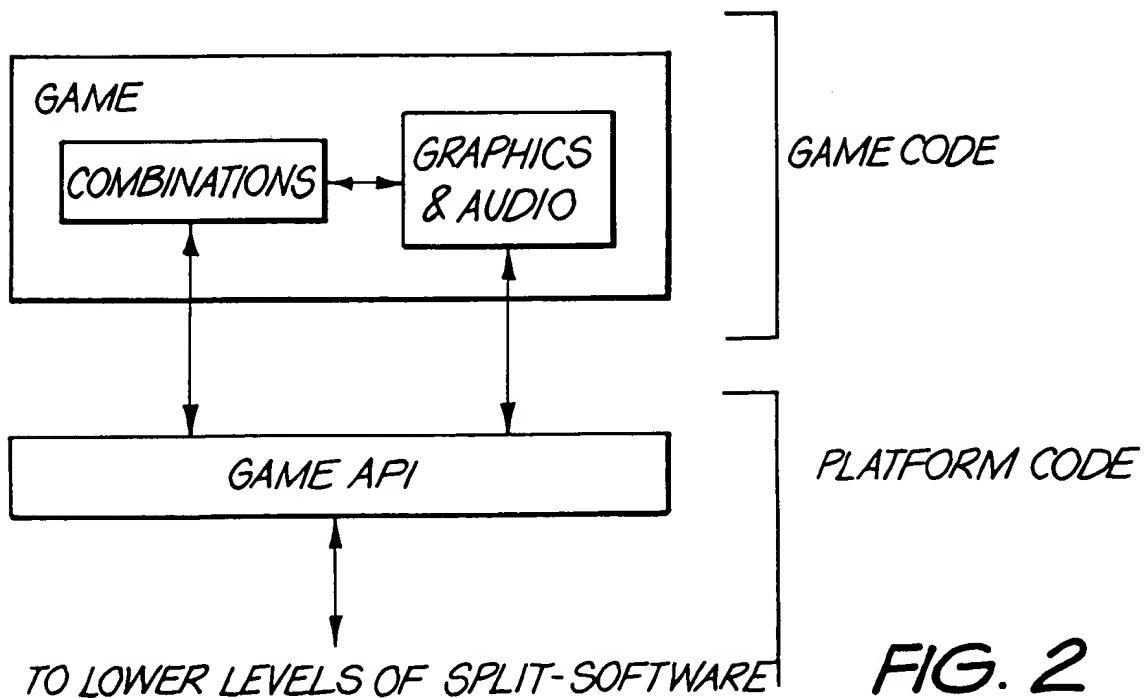
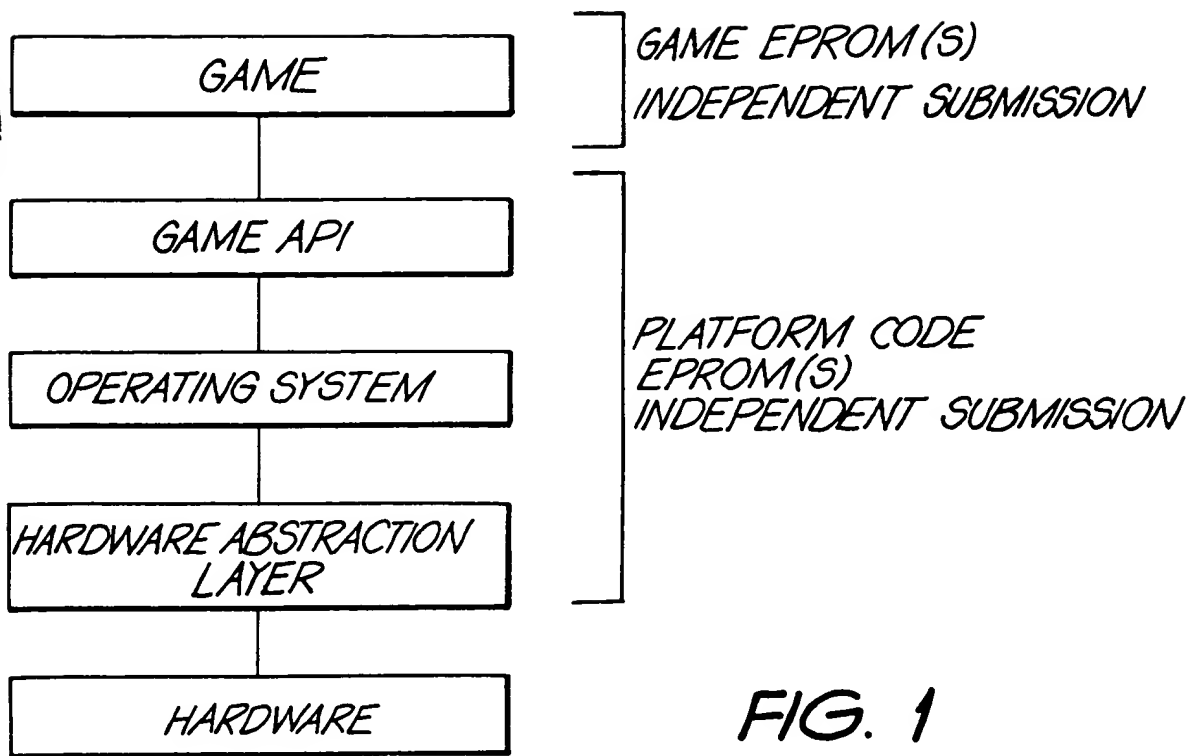
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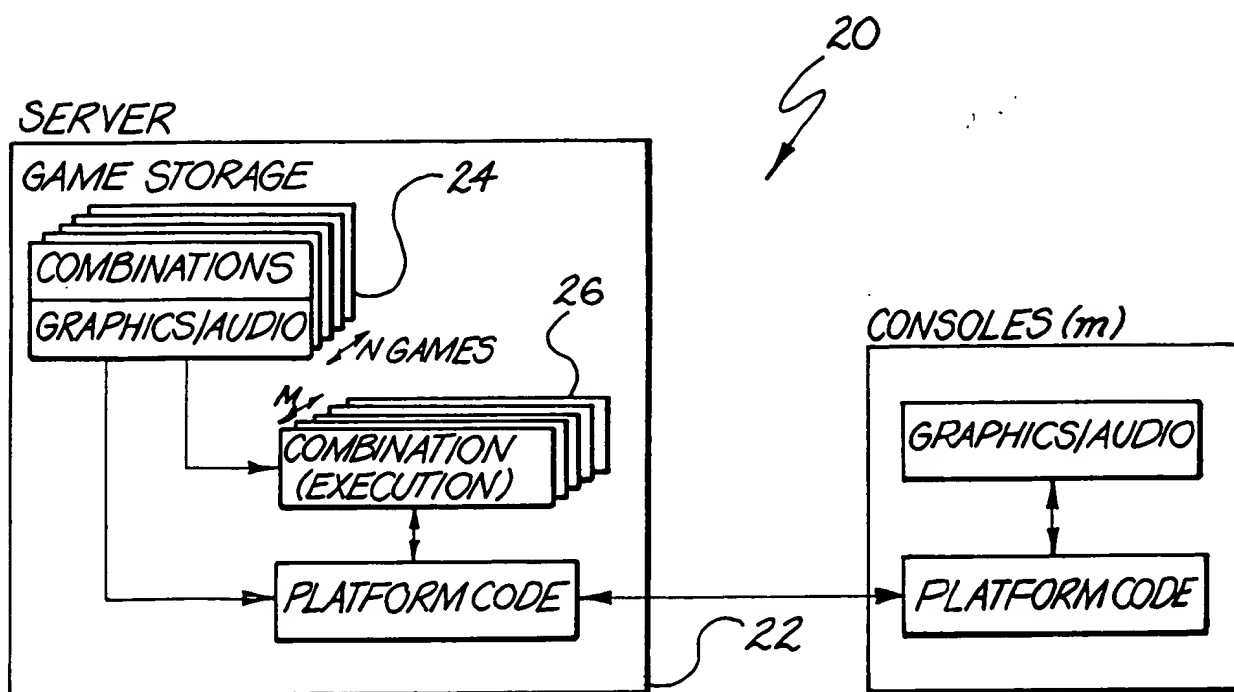
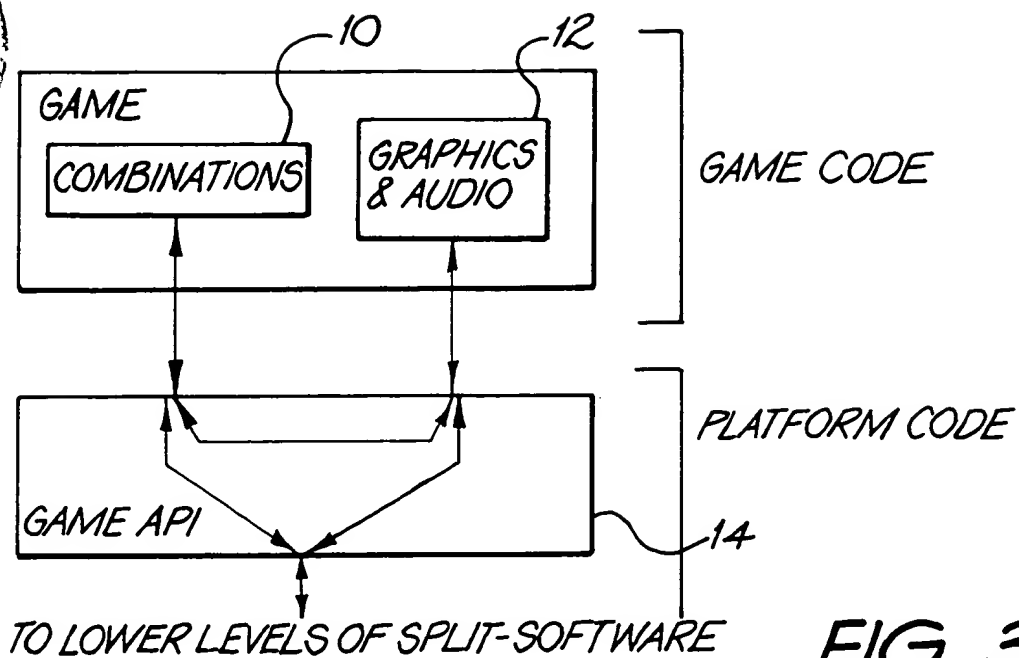


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APPROVAL #2

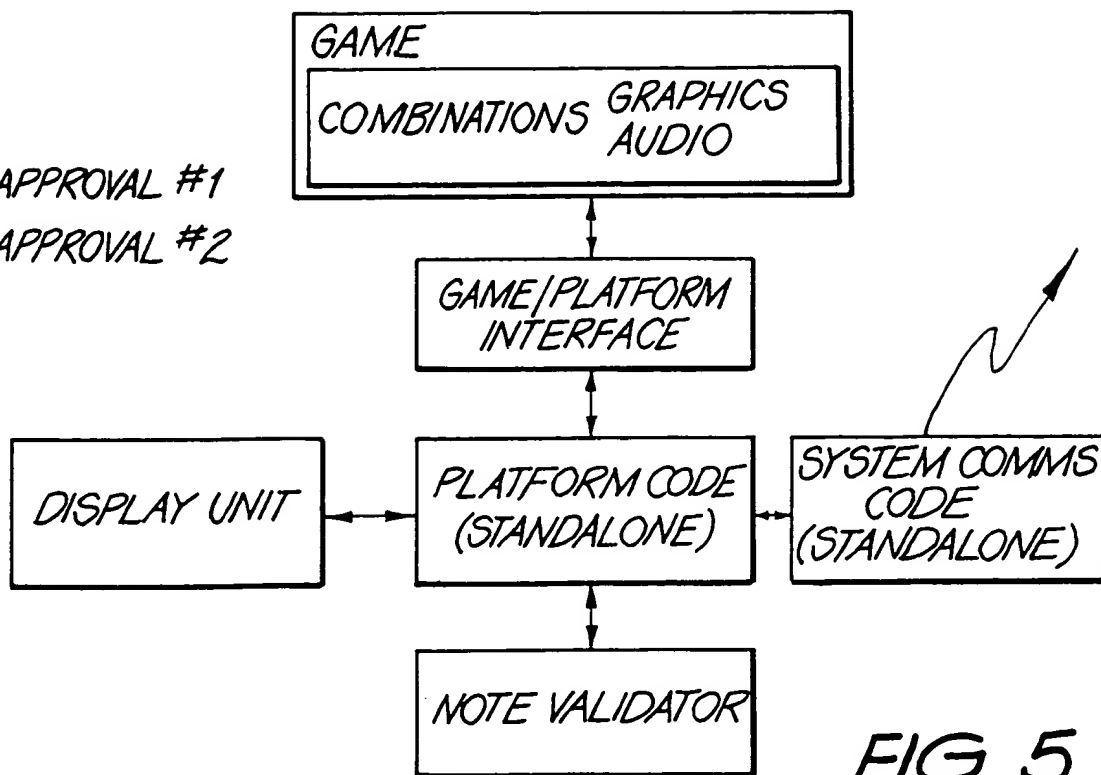


FIG. 5

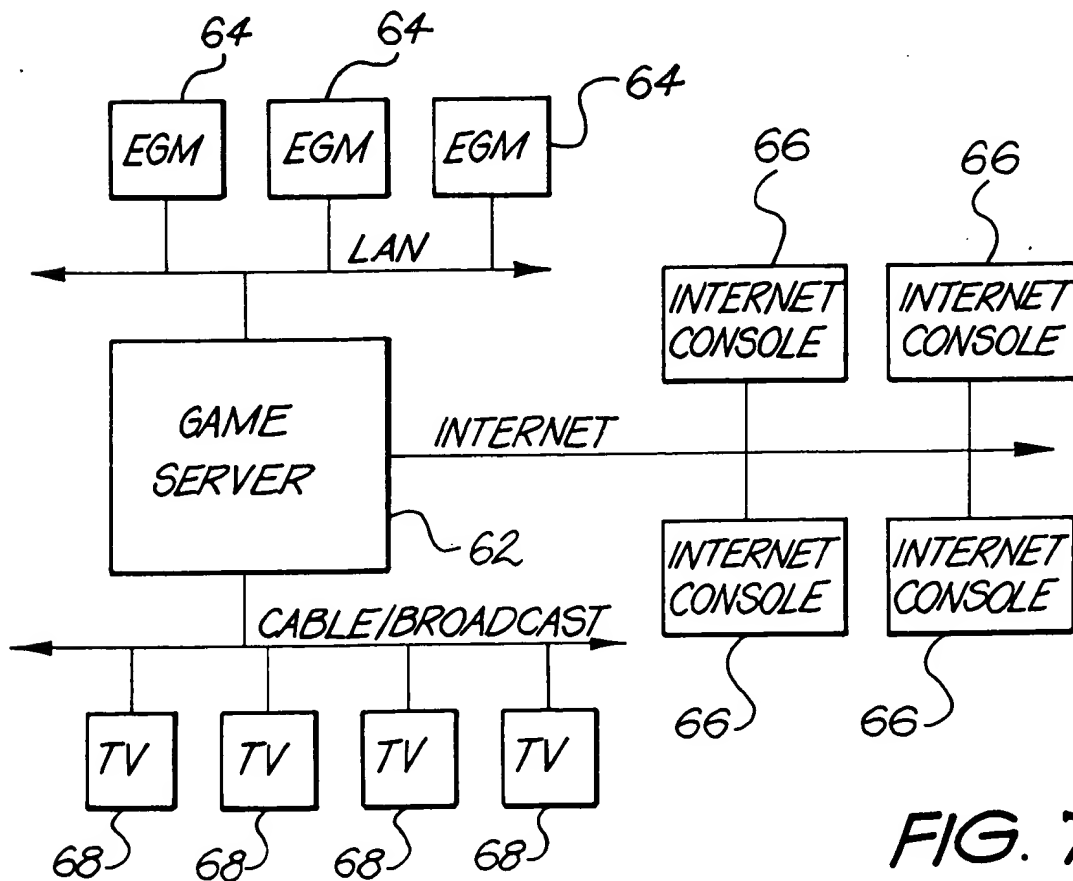


FIG. 7

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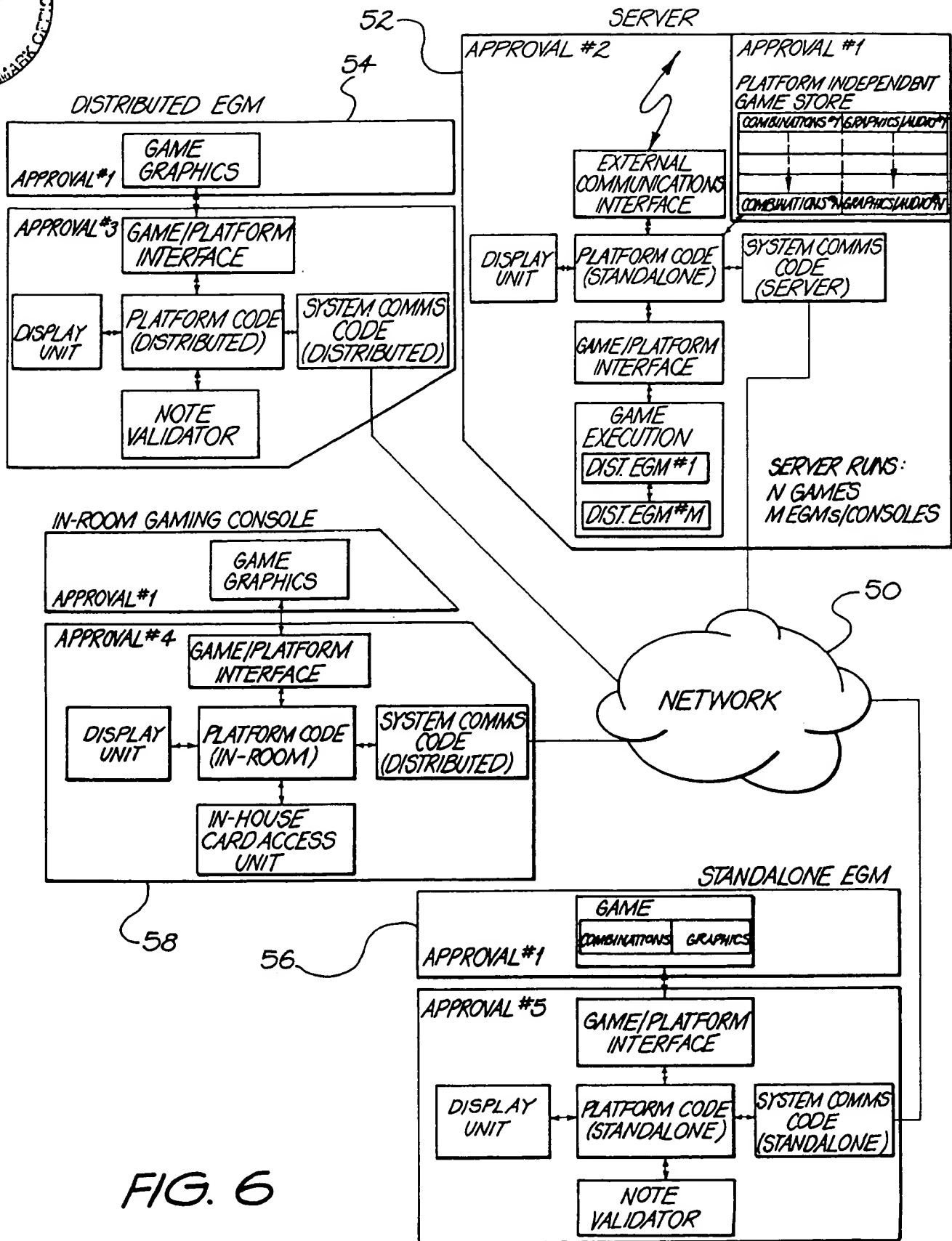


FIG. 6